

**To:** Bidtah Becker[bidtahnbecker@navajo-nsn.gov]; Rose Whitehair[rmwhitehair@gmail.com]; Donald D. Benn[donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov]; Ronnie Ben[ronnieben@navajo-nsn.gov]; Nina A. Chester[ninaaachester@navajo-nsn.gov]; Robert Joe[rjoe@navajo-nsn.gov]; Karis Begaye[karisbegaye@gmail.com]  
**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; larryrader@mecx.net[larryrader@mecx.net]; Foster, Althea[foster.althea@epa.gov]; Calanog, Steve[Calanog.Steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Williams, Laura  
**Sent:** Sat 9/12/2015 9:47:41 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Standby Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

Bidtah,

This was a "Notification Only" Alert Level per the "Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan." This alert level is for "an identified non mine-site related event affecting Cement Creek or the Animas River that will not pose a physical or safety concern for the downstream users, but may be perceived as a negative event by stakeholders, public, or the media."

The EPA Gold King Mine Site Team noticed a small amount of turbidity in Cement Creek from upstream of the mine site late this morning. The team walked the creek for a short distance but was not able to identify a source for the turbidity. At the time of my previous email notice, the turbidity had largely dissipated and the stream was clearing. Turbidity is generally the result of particles within the water such as clay, silt, finely divided inorganic and organic matter, algae, microscopic organisms or, near mines, precipitated metals. Depending on the type of particle causing the turbidity, the concerns are different. Most often, microorganisms such as e. coli or giardia can cause gastrointestinal disease. For precipitated metals, these are relatively stable forms of a metal that have solidified out of the water and are relatively non-toxic unless inhaled or ingested in large amounts or repeatedly over a longer period of time.

It is unlikely that the turbidity remained in the river for any significant distance (less than a hundred feet) and would not be a concern or risk to any downstream users such as the Navajo Nation.

Sincerely,

Laura Williams

**From:** Bidtah Becker [mailto:bidtahnbecker@navajo-nsn.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 12, 2015 2:44 PM

**To:** Rose Whitehair; Donald D. Benn; Ronnie Ben; Nina A. Chester; Robert Joe; Karis Begaye; Williams, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: Standby Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

Hello Ms. Williams-

The Navajo Nation EOC forwarded your email message about noticed turbidity in Cement Creek to several executive level staff members at the Nation and who are cc'd here. Can you provide more information about turbidity and the risks or concerns about the noticed turbidity?

Thank you-

Bidtah Becker

Division of Natural Resources

Navajo Nation

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Rose Whitehair <[rmwhitehair@gmail.com](mailto:rmwhitehair@gmail.com)>

Date: 12/09/2015 1:31 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: "Donald D. Benn" <[donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov)>, Ronnie Ben <[ronnieben@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ronnieben@navajo-nsn.gov)>, Bidtah Becker <[bidtahbecker@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:bidtahbecker@navajo-nsn.gov)>, "Nina A. Chester" <[ninaaachester@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ninaaachester@navajo-nsn.gov)>, Robert Joe <[rjoe@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rjoe@navajo-nsn.gov)>, Karis Begaye <[karn.Cemeisbegaye@gmail.com](mailto:karn.Cemeisbegaye@gmail.com)>

Cc:

Subject: Fwd: Standby Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

FYSA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Williams, Laura" <[williams.laura@epa.gov](mailto:williams.laura@epa.gov)>

Date: Sep 12, 2015 1:14 PM

Subject: Standby Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

To: "a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org" <[a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org](mailto:a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org)>, "Alexa Sandoval (alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us)" <[alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us](mailto:alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us)>, "Allison Majure (Allison.Majure@state.nm.us)" <[Allison.Majure@state.nm.us](mailto:Allison.Majure@state.nm.us)>, "Bonnie Hopkins

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 "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At approximately 11:45 this morning, the EPA Gold King Mine Site Team noticed turbidity in Cement Creek. The turbidity emanates from somewhere upstream of the mine site; however, a source or cause could not be identified. Please call if you should need any additional information.

Laura Williams, Unit Leader

Emergency Response Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

720-446-6442 (mobile)